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Sixteenth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006)

I. Introduction

1. The present report provides a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) since the last report of the Secretary-General (S/2011/91) was issued on 28 February 2011.

2. The security arrangements put in place by resolution 1701 (2006) have been seriously tested by a number of incidents during the period under review. The absence of a Government in Lebanon during most of the reporting period and the political tumult in the Arab world have contributed to an already volatile climate.

3. On 15 May, the most deadly incident in the Blue Line area since the adoption of the resolution occurred when the Israel Defense Forces, after firing initial warning shots, opened live fire against Palestinian demonstrators who had reached the Israeli technical fence, in the area of Maroun al-Ras in southern Lebanon, killing 7 civilians and injuring 11. On 27 May, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) sustained the first direct terrorist attack in over three years, when a bomb planted on the main north-south highway just north of the town of Saida hit a UNIFIL vehicle, injuring six peacekeepers, two of them seriously, and two Lebanese civilians.

4. In spite of this adverse environment, the parties have managed to maintain their commitment to resolution 1701 (2006), which has ensured that the cessation of hostilities has continued to hold. Notwithstanding this, the parties have failed to make significant progress in the implementation of other key obligations under resolution 1701 (2006), as described in greater detail in this report. The parties should make every effort to meet their obligations under the resolution if progress from the current cessation of hostilities to a permanent ceasefire, as called for in the resolution, is to be achieved.

5. Lebanon was in effect without a Government during most of the reporting period after the collapse on 12 January of the national unity Government led by Saad Hariri. The prolonged absence of a functioning Government was accompanied by institutional paralysis, increased polarization between the 8 March and 14 March camps and a deterioration of security conditions in the country. The absence of a Government also halted processes that are key in order for Lebanon to make further

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progress in implementation of its obligations under resolution 1701 (2006). Attempts by Prime Minister-designate Najib Mikati since 25 January to form a new Government succeeded on 13 June, when he announced a new Government composed of 30 Cabinet ministers who belong predominantly to the 8 March alliance.

6. The situation within Lebanon and the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) have also been influenced by developments taking place in the region. The unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic since mid-March, in particular, has affected Lebanon in different ways, most visibly through the influx across its northern border in mid-May of an estimated 4,000 persons fleeing violence in Syrian towns close to the border.

II. Implementation of resolution 1701 (2006)

A. Situation in the UNIFIL area of operations

7. The parties have maintained their commitment to resolution 1701 (2006) and the cessation of hostilities. The situation in the UNIFIL area of operations remained stable and quiet for most of the period, despite regular violations of Lebanese airspace and a number of ground violations of the Blue Line. There was a deadly and tragic incident on 15 May during a Palestinian demonstration near Maroun al-Ras (Sector West).

8. UNIFIL estimates that around 8,000 to 10,000 demonstrators, mostly Palestinian refugees, participated in the event. Organizers included Palestinian and Lebanese organizations, among them Hizbullah. While the majority of demonstrators commemorated the day peacefully at the site prepared for the occasion, away from the Blue Line, around 1,000 protesters left the main gathering and, crossing through a minefield, moved towards the Blue Line and the Israeli technical fence. Using cordons and firing in the air, the Lebanese Armed Forces was able to stop a first attempt by a smaller group to reach the technical fence but was not able to prevent the second attempt by the demonstrators. At the technical fence, demonstrators unearthed 23 anti-tank mines, threw stones and two petrol bombs across the fence and attempted to climb it and bring it down. Following a verbal warning and firing into the air, the Israel Defense Forces then directed live fire at the protesters at the fence. After the arrival of reinforcements, Lebanese Armed Forces Special Forces reserve moved the protesters away from the fence. The Lebanese Armed Forces initially informed UNIFIL that 11 persons were killed. This figure was later revised to 7, with 111 people injured. In addition, the respective parties informed UNIFIL that 70 Lebanese Armed Forces soldiers and 4 Israel Defense Forces troops were lightly wounded by stones. One UNIFIL soldier also sustained light wounds from a thrown stone.

9. UNIFIL immediately initiated an investigation into the incident in order to determine the violations of resolution 1701 (2006) that occurred on that day, as well as the deployment, posture and actions of all parties involved in the incident. Preliminary findings indicate that the demonstrators, in throwing stones and petrol bombs across the Israeli technical fence and the Blue Line, and in attempting to bring down a section of the fence, carried out a provocative and violent act that constitutes a violation of resolution 1701 (2006). The Lebanese Armed Forces

troops deployed in the area tried to prevent the demonstrators from approaching the technical fence and the Blue Line. The number of troops and the available equipment proved, however, insufficient for the expected turnout and the envisaged risks concerning the event. Once deployed, the Lebanese Armed Forces Special Forces managed quickly to push back the crowd, using batons, tear gas and heavy firing in the air. Other than firing initial warning shots, the Israel Defense Forces did not use conventional crowd control methods or any other method than lethal weapons against the demonstrators. The firing of live ammunition by the Israel Defense Forces across the Blue Line against the demonstrators, which resulted in the loss of civilian life and a significant number of casualties, constituted a violation of resolution 1701 (2006) and was not commensurate with the threat to Israeli soldiers.

10. During the tripartite meeting on 11 May and in bilateral contacts with UNIFIL, the Israel Defense Forces had warned that they would not tolerate interference with the technical fence, crossing of the Blue Line, or threats to the forces. Prior to the demonstrations, UNIFIL reinforced its positions in the area. UNIFIL did not deploy its troops on the ground during the incident, based on the assessment of the Lebanese Armed Forces and a request to avoid close contact with the demonstrators so as not to potentially aggravate the situation. With the exception of a request for UNIFIL to carry out helicopter patrols to monitor the situation from the air, the Lebanese Armed Forces did not ask for UNIFIL assistance. While the Israel Defense Forces called on UNIFIL to intervene on the ground once the demonstrators reached the technical fence, the Lebanese Armed Forces insisted that UNIFIL stay away from the demonstrators to avoid additional friction.

11. In preparation for expected events commemorating the anniversary of the 1967 war in early June, UNIFIL convened a special meeting of the tripartite forum on 2 June and held separate coordination meetings with both the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Israel Defense Forces. Also on 2 June, the Lebanese Armed Forces decided to forbid demonstrators from entering the area south of the Litani River and declared the area a restricted military zone. The Lebanese Armed Forces also imposed strict security measures by deploying along the fence between KafrKila and El Adeisse village, particularly at the Fatima Gate. UNIFIL ensured a greater presence of its troops on the ground, in particular in sensitive areas along the Blue Line. Following the decision of the Lebanese Armed Forces, Palestinian organizations cancelled demonstrations along the Blue Line. On 5 June, there were two small gatherings along the Blue Line, which were swiftly dispersed by the Lebanese Armed Forces.

12. The Israel Defense Forces continued its occupation of the northern part of Ghajar village and an adjacent area of land north of the Blue Line, in violation of resolution 1701 (2006). Since my last report, UNIFIL has engaged intensively with both parties in bilateral discussions on security arrangements to accompany the implementation of the proposal to facilitate the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the area. On the basis of the discussions and comments received, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNIFIL are in the process of finalizing a formal proposal of the security arrangements for adoption by the parties.

13. The Israel Defense Forces have continued to make almost daily intrusions into Lebanese airspace, including regularly by fighter jets. As previous reports have noted, these overflights are violations of resolution 1701 (2006), as well as of

Lebanese sovereignty. UNIFIL has continued to protest all air violations, calling on the Israeli authorities to cease them immediately. The Government of Lebanon has also continued to protest against the air violations, demanding that they stop. For its part, the Government of Israel continues to maintain that the overflights are a necessary security measure, citing, inter alia, the alleged lack of enforcement of the arms embargo.

14. On 22 March, the Israel Defense Forces apprehended two Lebanese shepherds in the vicinity of Rumaysh (Sector West) who they alleged had crossed the Blue Line. Following contacts with both parties, the Israel Defense Forces handed the individuals over to UNIFIL the following day at the Ra's Naqoura crossing point. UNIFIL, in turn, handed them over to the Lebanese authorities. The UNIFIL investigation concluded that, while one of the shepherds had violated the Blue Line by some 10 metres, the second shepherd had been north of the Line, making his apprehension a violation of the Blue Line by the Israel Defense Forces. During the investigation, the Israel Defense Forces noted that shepherds regularly violated the Blue Line in this area, as had been the case in the incident on 12 January detailed in my last report (S/2011/91). In the area of the incident, the Blue Line is clearly marked and visible.

15. UNIFIL has finalized its investigation into the incident of 12 January, when the Israel Defense Forces apprehended another shepherd in the same area. The investigation concluded that available evidence pointed to a likely Blue Line violation by the shepherd. As a result of the number of incidents in this area, UNIFIL has intensified daily foot and vehicle patrols and increased the number of observation posts along the Blue Line in this area. UNIFIL also called upon the Lebanese Armed Forces to increase their activities and sensitize local shepherds concerning the grazing of their livestock close to the Blue Line.

16. There were other ground violations of the Blue Line, mostly inadvertent, by Lebanese shepherds and farmers tending livestock or working in fields, mainly in the Shab'a Farms and KfarShouba areas. On 3 March, an Israel Defense Forces excavator crossed the Blue Line, also apparently inadvertently, while carrying out maintenance works along the technical fence in the vicinity of Metulla. On 14 April, an Israel Defense Forces tank crossed the technical fence in the vicinity of El Adeisse, sparking alarm on the Lebanese side. UNIFIL dispatched patrols to the area, interposed itself between the parties, and later reinforced its presence on the ground. There was no violation of the Blue Line, a fact acknowledged by the Lebanese Armed Forces. However, the action of the Israel Defense Forces led to a rapid rise in tension that, in the absence of UNIFIL, could have led to an incident. In all cases, UNIFIL was in contact with Israel Defense Forces and Lebanese Armed Forces commands, urging utmost caution in any actions along the Blue Line that could be perceived as provocative and exacerbate tensions.

17. On a few occasions, UNIFIL observed civilians throwing stones at the Israeli technical fence in the general areas of KafrKila and El Adeisse (Sector East). On 16 March, stones were thrown on two occasions from the Israeli side of the technical fence, where an Israel Defense Forces position is located, at Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL personnel who were on duty in the vicinity of Fatima Gate near KafrKila. The Israel Defense Forces informed UNIFIL that they were investigating the incident. UNIFIL has continued to work with both parties to curb

all such aggressive activities, and has urged them to exercise maximum restraint and inform UNIFIL of any violations of this nature.

18. UNIFIL observed 10 cases of weapons pointing across the Blue Line. Four instances involved Israel Defense Forces soldiers pointing their weapons in the direction of UNIFIL personnel; in five other instances the Israel Defense Forces pointed their weapons in the direction of Lebanese civilians or Lebanese Armed Forces personnel. The most serious incident happened on 1 June, when Israel Defense Forces soldiers pointed a mounted heavy machine gun towards soldiers at a Lebanese Army checkpoint on the western side of Ghajar. The incident temporarily escalated tensions on both sides of the Blue Line, and the situation returned to normal only when the Israel Defense Forces patrol left the location. On one occasion, a Lebanese Armed Forces soldier pointed his weapon towards Israel in the vicinity of Israel Defense Forces soldiers. UNIFIL has protested against all incidents involving weapons being pointed and, when required and possible, interposed its soldiers between Lebanese Armed Forces and Israel Defense Forces soldiers, seeking to prevent such incidents from escalating. There were also a number of allegations of weapons being pointed, particularly in the areas of El Adeisse and KafrKila, as a result of which UNIFIL has established an additional observation point in the area of El Adeisse.

19. While both parties continued to express their commitment to visibly mark the Blue Line, there is still a lack of consensus over contentious points, continuing to delay the process. As a result, no progress has been made in measuring coordinates within the existing sectors and efforts to open up a new marking sector have also proved unsuccessful. Despite this impasse, following UNIFIL bilateral discussions with them, both parties recently submitted to UNIFIL a list of coordinates, which they are willing to mark. UNIFIL is in the process of reviewing these lists and, once common points have been identified, will propose to the parties to commence marking those coordinates immediately.

20. Cooperation between UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces remains a cornerstone of the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). Efforts by UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces to expand their coordinated activities and further develop cooperation have continued. The two Forces have maintained their respective installations and continued their daily operational activities, comprising patrols, checkpoints and observation points. UNIFIL on its part conducted an average of 300 patrols per day, in addition to regular helicopter patrols and other operational activities. Joint Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL operational activities have also continued, including an average of 13 counter-rocket launching operations during each 24-hour period and 6 daily foot patrols, while operating 18 co-located checkpoints, 6 of which are on the Litani River. The Lebanese Armed Forces maintained their deployment in the UNIFIL area of operations at the level of four brigades until mid-June when they adjusted their deployment structure from four to three brigades, plus two battalions, while maintaining the overall number of deployed troops. During the reporting period, UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces conducted several large-scale joint capability exercises, including for mass casualty evacuation and a live fire artillery exercise.

21. UNIFIL has generally enjoyed freedom of movement throughout its area of operations, carrying out approximately 9,000 to 10,000 patrols each month. On two occasions, on 30 May and 5 June, passengers travelling in civilian cars pointed

handguns at UNIFIL and on two occasions patrols were impeded by local civilians. On 21 March, two civilian vehicles blocked a UNIFIL patrol in the vicinity of Hanin (Sector West) from the front and behind. When the civilians refused to move their vehicles, the patrol managed to circumvent them and left the site. The Lebanese Armed Forces later informed UNIFIL that both drivers had misunderstood the patrol's demands. On 31 March, an Observer Group Lebanon patrol was blocked by a civilian vehicle in the vicinity of BintJbeil. After the Lebanese Armed Forces arrived at the scene, it was explained that the Observer Group Lebanon patrol had been stopped because it had taken photographs. At the request of the Lebanese Armed Forces, the patrol handed over the camera memory card, which the Lebanese Armed Forces subsequently returned. In addition, on 8 April, individuals approached a UNIFIL vehicle, complaining about its location close to the Litani River. They kicked the vehicle and threw stones at it. They left when they saw the rest of the UNIFIL patrol approaching. On 18 April, individuals taking photographs of an Israel Defense Forces position refused to stop when requested to do so by UNIFIL. When UNIFIL in turn took photographs of the individuals, the latter took the UNIFIL camera and removed the memory card before returning the camera. The Lebanese Armed Forces returned the memory card later in the day. On 9 June, close to MajdalSilim a UNIFIL patrol was stopped by a car carrying four civilians. The individuals seized a GPS device, a map, a camera and several vehicle documents from the patrol and fled the scene. UNIFIL strongly protested about all of these incidents to the Lebanese Armed Forces.

22. Despite the incidents reported above, the attitude of the local population towards UNIFIL has remained on the whole positive. Civil Affairs and Civil-Military Coordination Units at Headquarters and sector level have continued with regular liaison and outreach activities. UNIFIL participation in local festivals and other events has further enhanced cooperation and coordination with civil society organizations and was positively received by the local population. Quick-impact projects continue to be implemented through troop-contributing countries, as well as the UNIFIL budget.

23. UNIFIL has continued to provide assistance to the Lebanese Armed Forces in taking steps towards the establishment between the Blue Line and the Litani River of an area free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons, other than those of the Government of Lebanon and of UNIFIL, in accordance with resolution 1701 (2006). The Lebanese Armed Forces informed UNIFIL on 23 May that they had intercepted and arrested, in the vicinity of Hasbaya, outside the eastern section of the UNIFIL area of operations, an individual attempting to smuggle a rocket, which was not armed, into the UNIFIL area of operations.

24. During the reporting period, UNIFIL encountered individuals carrying hunting weapons inside the area of operations. On two occasions, at a homecoming ceremony and a funeral, several individuals were found to be carrying AK-47s or similar types of weapons, and shooting them into the air. The presence of any weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and UNIFIL south of the Litani River is in contravention of resolution 1701 (2006). The Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL have worked together to curb all hunting activities. This proactive action led to the Lebanese Armed Forces detaining several individuals and confiscating their weapons. In addition, armed persons and weapons were present inside Palestinian refugee camps in the area of operations.

25. During the reporting period, UNIFIL did not discover any arms caches, military materiel or infrastructure. UNIFIL routinely checked previously discovered former facilities of armed elements in the area of operations, including bunkers and caves, but found no indication that they had been reactivated and no evidence of new military infrastructure in its area of operations. On 18 March, the Lebanese Armed Forces issued a statement saying that on 17 March 2011, a specialized Lebanese Armed Forces unit had dismantled espionage and imaging systems planted by Israel and camouflaged as a rock in Shama near Tyre. On 21 March, the caretaker Lebanese Foreign Minister sent identical letters to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (A/65/805-S/2011/174) protesting against the incident as a violation of Lebanese sovereignty and resolution 1701 (2006). No information was provided to UNIFIL either prior or subsequent to this event, despite repeated requests from UNIFIL to both the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Israel Defense Forces to provide all relevant information necessary for it to ascertain the facts.

26. The Government of Israel maintains that Hizbullah is continuing to build up its military presence and capacity, including within the UNIFIL area of operations. It also charges that Hizbullah maintains military positions and units inside populated areas in southern Lebanon and that unauthorized weapons are being transferred into Lebanon, including into the UNIFIL area of operations.

27. In cooperation with the Lebanese Armed Forces, UNIFIL immediately investigates any claim regarding the illegal presence of armed personnel or weapons in its area of operations if specific information is received. UNIFIL remains determined to act with all means available within its mandate and to the full extent provided for in its rules of engagement. Under its mandate, UNIFIL cannot search private houses and properties unless there is credible evidence of a violation of resolution 1701 (2006), including an imminent threat of hostile activity emanating from that specific location. To date, UNIFIL has neither been provided with, nor found, evidence of the unauthorized transfer of arms into its area of operations. The Lebanese Armed Forces Command continues to state that it will act immediately on receiving evidence of unauthorized armed personnel or weapons in the area and put a stop to any illegal activity in contravention of resolution 1701 (2006) and relevant Government decisions, specifically those concerning the illegal presence of armed personnel and weapons south of the Litani River.

28. The UNIFIL Maritime Task Force has continued to carry out its dual mandate of conducting maritime interdiction operations in the area of maritime operations and training the Lebanese naval forces. Since its inception in October 2006, the Maritime Task Force has hailed and queried over 38,107 vessels, and the Lebanese navy has inspected a total of 1,078 merchant vessels identified as suspicious, 213 of them since my last report. Lebanese navy and Customs officials inspected the vessels to verify that there were no unauthorized arms or related materiel on board and cleared all of them. The Maritime Task Force and Lebanese naval forces conducted 71 workshops on land and 184 at-sea training phases during the reporting period. Lebanese navy personnel continued to further develop their capabilities by conducting on-the-job training in commanding maritime interdiction operations. Some limitations resulted from the lack of adequate Lebanese navy vessels that could endure severe weather conditions.

29. Incidents along the line of buoys continued to occur, with the Israel Defense Forces dropping depth charges or firing flares and warning shots along the buoy line. UNIFIL has no mandate to monitor the line of buoys, which the Government of Israel installed unilaterally and which the Government of Lebanon does not recognize. At the tripartite meeting on 7 March, the Lebanese Armed Forces requested UNIFIL to establish a maritime security line between Lebanon and Israel. The parties agreed that UNIFIL would undertake exploratory bilateral discussions with both parties on maritime security issues in general and the Force Commander has written to both sides in this regard.

B. Security and liaison arrangements

30. Monthly tripartite meetings, chaired by the UNIFIL Force Commander and attended by senior representatives of the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Israel Defense Forces, continue to be an indispensable element in the regular liaison and coordination between UNIFIL and the parties, and remain a key mechanism to address security and military operational issues related to the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). During the meetings, investigations into incidents and violations of the resolution as a means to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future and to improve stability in areas along the Blue Line were also discussed. The parties have maintained their commitment to the forum. However, the continuing impasse on Blue Line marking and the decision of Israel not to renew a humanitarian arrangement allowing farmers in the Blida area access to parts of the olive fields that are located south of the Blue Line might have an impact on the overall level of trust between the parties. The forum held one special meeting on 2 June where it discussed the UNIFIL preliminary investigation report into the events of 15 May. Both parties expressed their commitment to preventing a recurrence of such a tragic incident. Although no formal agreement on operational procedures in sensitive areas along the Blue Line was reached, a practical modus operandi with the parties has evolved and UNIFIL on its part has maintained its reinforced deployment in the KafrKila and El Adeisse areas, which has contributed to a decrease in the number of incidents in those areas. Building on this positive impact, UNIFIL has reviewed the arrangements and proposed to the parties specific operational procedures to be applied in those two areas in the forthcoming months. UNIFIL has engaged with the parties, with a view to extending these procedures to other areas where incidents have been reported in recent months.

31. Since my last report, UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces have held three strategic dialogue meetings, in which the two delegations discussed the terms of reference and rules of procedure.

32. UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces have continued their regular interaction at operational and tactical levels through regular interaction with Lebanese Armed Forces headquarters, as well as through daily liaison activities. This has included the placement of Lebanese Armed Forces liaison officers at UNIFIL Force headquarters and at the sector level, as well as a UNIFIL liaison officer placed at the Lebanese Armed Forces headquarters for the South Litani Sector in Tyre.

33. UNIFIL has also continued its effective liaison and coordination with the Israel Defense Forces, including through regular interaction between the UNIFIL

Force Commander and his counterparts, and the placement of two UNIFIL liaison officers at the Israel Defense Forces Northern Command headquarters in Zefat. No progress has been made in establishing a UNIFIL office in Tel Aviv.

C. Disarming armed groups

34. The maintenance of arms by Hizbullah and other armed groups outside of the control of the State, in violation of resolutions 1559 (2004), 1680 (2006) and 1701 (2006), continues to pose a serious challenge to the ability of the Lebanese State to exercise its full sovereignty over its territory.

35. Hizbullah continues to acknowledge that it maintains a substantial military arsenal separate from that of the Lebanese State for defensive purposes against Israel. In several public pronouncements during the reporting period, the Secretary-General of Hizbullah, Hassan Nasrallah, stated that his party would continue to train, exercise, and arm itself to protect Lebanon and its natural resources against what he termed "potential Israeli attacks".

36. The issue of Hizbullah arms came to the forefront of the political debate in Lebanon at a large political rally that the 14 March coalition organized on 13 March, to commemorate the sixth anniversary of its formation. All speakers denounced the continued existence of arms outside the control of the State and their use as a political instrument in the domestic arena.

37. No progress was achieved during the reporting period towards dismantling the military bases maintained by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) and by Fatah al-Intifada. These military bases are outside the control of the Lebanese State, with most of them straddling the border between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. As in my previous reports, I once again call upon the Lebanese authorities to dismantle the PFLP-GC and Fatah al-Intifada military bases, and on the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate with these efforts.

38. No major security incidents were recorded in Lebanon's 12 Palestinian camps during the reporting period. Lebanese security authorities continue to point to good cooperation existing between the Lebanese Armed Forces and Palestinian security officials in the camps. They also highlight the positive impact on security conditions in the camps brought about by the reconciliation agreement that was concluded on 27 April between Palestinian parties under the auspices of the Government of Egypt.

39. The existence of armed groups outside the control of the State in Lebanon was highlighted on 23 March when seven Estonian tourists were abducted in the Bekaa region, close to the border with the Syrian Arab Republic. At the time of writing, the whereabouts of these men remain unknown. Lebanese security agencies continue their efforts to secure their release, in cooperation with Estonian authorities. I appeal for their immediate release.

40. It remains my conviction that the disarmament of armed groups should be achieved through a domestic political process, so that there are no weapons or authority in Lebanon other than those of the Lebanese State. Lebanese leaders committed themselves to such a process in May 2008, when they decided to convene a National Dialogue Committee to agree on a national defence strategy,

which, in turn, would have to consider the issue of weapons outside the control of the State. The National Dialogue Committee has not met since 4 November 2010.

D. Arms embargo

41. In resolution 1701 (2006), the Security Council decided that all States were to prevent the sale or supply of arms and related materiel to entities or individuals in Lebanon by their nationals, or from their territories, or using their flag vessels or aircraft. The Government of Lebanon did not report any breach of the arms embargo imposed by resolution 1701 (2006). For its part, the Government of Israel alleges that Hizbullah continues to build up its armaments. While the United Nations takes these allegations seriously, it is not in a position to verify this information independently.

42. By resolution 1701 (2006) the Council also called upon the Government of Lebanon to secure its borders and other entry points so as to prevent the entry into Lebanon, without its consent, of arms and related materiel. Lebanese authorities informed my Special Coordinator for Lebanon that the deployment of security personnel for the management of the border remains unchanged, except for the deployment of two additional Lebanese Armed Forces companies described in paragraph 43 below.

43. The management of the northern border with the Syrian Arab Republic continues to be entrusted to the Common Border Force, which comprises around 700 staff from Lebanon's four security agencies (the Armed Forces, Internal Security, General Security and Customs). In the first half of May, the situation in Syrian towns close to the border with Lebanon prompted an influx of an estimated 4,000 persons across Lebanon's northern border. In response, the Lebanese Armed Forces deployed two additional companies, numbering approximately 220 troops, to support the Common Border Force. By early June, many of the displaced persons had returned to the Syrian Arab Republic. The United Nations is coordinating closely with the Government of Lebanon on the provision of assistance to displaced persons, as well as on matters of protection and the determination of their status. President Sleiman assured my Special Coordinator that Lebanon would abide by its international obligations in this regard.

44. On the eastern border, the Lebanese Army continues to deploy around 600 troops and 200 personnel from the Internal Security Forces, along a stretch of 80 kilometres immediately adjacent to the area of operations of the existing Common Border Force, up to Arsal. The Lebanese Armed Forces plan to deploy a third border regiment that would operate between the village of Arsal and the main crossing point of Masn'a.

45. At a meeting chaired by my Special Coordinator on 14 April 2011, ambassadors of donor countries that continue to be engaged in providing support to Lebanon for the improvement of its border management capacity noted that the absence of a comprehensive national strategy for border management rendered difficult the mobilization of additional resources, and reiterated the need for such a national strategy to be adopted. Donors agreed to continue to share information and coordinate ongoing projects of support to Lebanon for border management. The absence of a Government in Lebanon, however, has stood in the way of progress in

the adoption of a comprehensive national strategy for border management on the basis of the draft strategy developed by the National Coordinator in 2010.

46. The effective management of the border between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic continues to be adversely affected by the fact that it is neither delineated nor demarcated, and by the continued presence of PFLP-GC and Fatah al-Intifada military bases that straddle the border between the two countries.

E. Landmines and cluster bombs

47. The Lebanese Mine Action Centre, which is a unit of the Lebanese Armed Forces, is the national authority for mine action in Lebanon with full responsibility for the management of all humanitarian clearance. The United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre continues to provide support to UNIFIL and the Lebanese Mine Action Centre concerning mine/unexploded ordnance clearance activities. During the reporting period, eight additional cluster bomb strike locations were recorded, bringing the total to 1,135.

48. The total number of fatalities and injuries among demining personnel resulting from clearance activities since August 2006 is 63, including 14 fatalities and 49 injuries. As for civilian accidents/incidents, one incident occurred in Snaya (Jezzine) on 31 March caused by an anti-tank mine and resulting in an injury. Another incident involving a cluster bomb resulted in the death of a civilian in DeirQanun, Ras el Ein. These two incidents bring the number of casualties among civilians to 292, including 29 fatalities and 263 injuries.

49. Preparations are under way for Lebanon to host, in September 2011, the second meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The conference is expected to attract approximately 1,000 delegates, including representatives of States parties to the Convention, representatives of international organizations and civil society organizations.

F. Delineation of borders

50. In paragraph 4 of its resolution 1680 (2006), the Security Council strongly encouraged the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to respond positively to the request of the Government of Lebanon to delineate their common border, especially in those areas where the border is uncertain or disputed. This would constitute a significant step towards improved management of the border and guaranteeing Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence. In resolution 1701 (2006), the Security Council reiterated this call.

51. No progress was achieved during the reporting period towards the delineation and demarcation of the border between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, despite commitments made in several summit meetings between President Assad and President Sleiman since August 2008. The joint Lebanese-Syrian border committee that is tasked with these matters has yet to convene. So far, only Lebanon has designated its participants in the committee.

52. Nor was any progress recorded on the issue of the Shab'a Farms area. In spite of my repeated requests, neither the Syrian Arab Republic nor Israel have reacted to

the provisional definition of the area contained in my report on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006), issued on 30 October 2007 (S/2007/641).

III. Security and safety of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

53. On 27 May, UNIFIL suffered a direct terrorist attack when an explosion caused by a remotely controlled roadside bomb hit a UNIFIL logistics convoy north of the town of Sidon, as it passed on the main coastal highway connecting Beirut to southern Lebanon, UNIFIL's main supply route. The attack injured six Italian peacekeepers, two seriously while four suffered light to moderate injuries, in addition to causing minor injuries to two Lebanese civilians. The explosion occurred close to where an attack against a UNIFIL vehicle took place in January 2008 (see S/2008/135). The Lebanese authorities and UNIFIL immediately launched an investigation into the incident. This was the fourth attack against UNIFIL since the adoption of resolution 1701 (2006) and the first in more than three years. As was the case in the previous instances, no one has claimed responsibility for the attack. All senior Lebanese authorities, as well as political leaders from across the political spectrum, condemned the attack. The Italian authorities have also opened an investigation into the attack.

54. The security and safety of UNIFIL personnel remains a high priority. Notwithstanding the obligation of all parties to ensure the safety and security of UNIFIL and the responsibility of the Government of Lebanon to maintain law and order, UNIFIL continues to apply risk mitigating measures, including safety awareness training for the personnel and force protection works for installations and assets. The mission's security plans and risk mitigating measures are reviewed regularly, and the mission has carried out evacuation preparedness exercises for civilian staff. UNIFIL, the Lebanese authorities and the Lebanese Armed Forces have regularly cooperated to ensure that security threats are addressed appropriately.

55. UNIFIL has continued to observe proceedings in the Lebanese military court against individuals accused of forming armed groups to carry out attacks against it. On 7 March, nine sentences were handed out, one in absentia, for prison terms ranging between 18 months and five years for possession of explosives and planning and conducting terrorist attacks against the Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL. Court proceedings continue in one case, with a total of 10 persons accused of possessing weapons and explosives and planning attacks against UNIFIL. A scheduled hearing for 23 May was adjourned until late July.

IV. Deployment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

56. As at 15 June, the total military strength of UNIFIL was 11,925, including 574 women. The mission has 353 international and 657 national civilian staff members, of whom 103 and 169, respectively, are women. UNIFIL is also supported by 52 United Nations Truce Supervision Organization military observers of the Observer Group Lebanon, 5 of whom are women.

57. The implementation of recommendations of the joint Department of Peacekeeping Operations/UNIFIL technical review, including the recommended adjustments to the force structure, assets and requirements, is ongoing. On 1 March, the UNIFIL Force Commander Reserve was established by merging the French battalion with the Quick Reaction Force. Neighbouring battalion areas of responsibility were redrawn, incorporating the area of the former French battalion. On 30 May, the advance party of the incoming Irish battalion arrived, while the main body is scheduled to deploy late in June.

V. Observations

58. I am worried that stagnation in the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) has prevented the parties from moving towards a permanent ceasefire and a long-term solution, as requested by the resolution. I am particularly troubled by the two dangerous incidents, one on 15 May that tested the security arrangements put in place by resolution 1701 (2006), and the second the direct attack by unknown assailants on UNIFIL. The fact that these developments occurred in a tense regional context further compounds their gravity.

59. I am concerned by the events that occurred near Maroun al-Ras on 15 May, during which the Israel Defense Forces used direct live fire against unarmed demonstrators who attempted to breach the technical fence. At the same time, the organizers were responsible for ensuring that demonstrators did not approach the technical fence and did not become violent. I regret the loss of life.

60. The Lebanese Armed Forces and the Israel Defense Forces have the primary responsibility to prevent and correct any violation of resolution 1701 (2006). I call on the Lebanese authorities and the Lebanese Armed Forces to enforce law and order in the area and to prevent any incident on the Blue Line originating from Lebanese territory. The Lebanese Armed Forces should make full use of the support and assistance of UNIFIL, as required. I call on the Israel Defense Forces to refrain from responding with live fire in such situations, except where clearly required in immediate self-defence. Notwithstanding the inherent right of every country to self-defence, there is a need for the Israel Defense Forces always to apply appropriate operational measures, including crowd control measures, which are commensurate with the imminent threat towards their troops and civilians. I call on both parties to use the agreed liaison and coordination arrangements to the full extent and to work closely with UNIFIL in order to mitigate the risk of further violence.

61. I condemn the attack on 27 May against UNIFIL personnel that injured six peacekeepers, two of them seriously, as well as two Lebanese civilians. I call on the Lebanese authorities to do their utmost to bring the perpetrators to justice. I remain concerned about the security of United Nations personnel and urge all parties to abide by their obligation to respect their safety and security.

62. In spite of the gravity of these events, relative stability and calm prevailed in the UNIFIL area of operations during most of the reporting period. The commitment of the Governments of Israel and Lebanon to the provisions of resolution 1701 (2006) and the cessation of hostilities has remained important in this regard. There is no doubt that the arrangements put in place by the Security Council in resolution 1701 (2006) have contributed to preserve stability and contain tensions in the area. This is no small achievement. Nevertheless, absent real progress in the full

implementation of the resolution, the situation along the Blue Line will remain dangerously fragile.

63. I therefore call on both parties to make the most of the new strategic environment that UNIFIL, in cooperation with the Lebanese Armed Forces, has helped to establish in the area of operations to make further progress in the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006), including respect for the Blue Line in its entirety, and to take the steps necessary to reach a permanent ceasefire. Furthermore, I call upon the Government of Israel to maintain its commitment to the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and to take real and concrete steps towards this end. I also call upon the new Government of Lebanon, headed by Prime Minister Mikati, to state its unequivocal commitment to the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and to all of Lebanon's international obligations, and to take the necessary steps in this respect.

64. I am encouraged by the commitment of the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Israel Defense Forces to work closely with UNIFIL, including on special operational procedures in sensitive areas along the Blue Line as a means of preventing misunderstandings that could escalate tensions and lead to incidents. I hope that the close cooperation and coordination with UNIFIL, including through the tripartite forum, will further advance the building of trust and confidence between the parties.

65. I am concerned at the continued lack of tangible progress in the process of visibly marking the Blue Line. I commend UNIFIL for its continuous efforts with both sides to overcome the impasse and urge both parties to proceed in a constructive and pragmatic manner regarding contentious points on the ground. I am encouraged by the parties' response to the most recent UNIFIL initiative and hope that it may restore momentum in the Blue Line marking process.

66. I am also concerned about the continuing high number of violations of resolution 1701 (2006) and of Lebanese sovereignty through almost daily overflights of Lebanese territory by the Israel Defense Forces. These overflights exacerbate tensions in the UNIFIL area of operations. They also have a negative impact on the credibility of the Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL. I call, once again, on Israel to cease immediately its overflights.

67. I am disappointed that the withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces from northern Ghajar and the adjacent area north of the Blue Line has still not been effected. In cooperation with both parties, UNIFIL has prepared security arrangements for the area around northern Ghajar that should satisfy the security needs of all sides. These would buttress the implementation of the United Nations proposal for facilitating the withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces south of the Blue Line. The withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces would be an important step towards the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006).

68. I remain concerned that incidents that impede the freedom of movement of UNIFIL and endanger the safety and security of peacekeepers continue to occur. The freedom of movement of UNIFIL and the security and safety of its personnel are integral to the effective execution of its tasks, in accordance with resolutions 1701 (2006) and 1773 (2007). The primary responsibility for ensuring freedom of movement for UNIFIL personnel in the area of operations lies with the Lebanese

authorities. In addition, I hope that the Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL will find ways to strengthen the management and investigation of incidents.

69. UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces are strategic partners in the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and in maintaining stability in the UNIFIL area of operations. I am encouraged by the engagement of UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces in the strategic dialogue process, but feel that the pace needs to be accelerated.

70. The Lebanese Armed Forces have continued to act with commitment and resolve and I am particularly pleased with the role they played in preventing the recurrence of any incident on 5 June. I am grateful to those countries that provide critical support in equipping and training the Lebanese Armed Forces, including the navy. I urge the international community to increase its support to ensure that the Lebanese Armed Forces have the capacities and capabilities they require, with a view to assuming greater responsibility in the UNIFIL area of operations and in Lebanese territorial waters.

71. The presence of armed groups outside the control of the State poses a continuous threat to Lebanon's sovereignty and stability, and hampers the full implementation of resolutions 1559 (2004) and 1701 (2006). I call on Lebanese leaders to persevere in the domestic political process aimed at the disarmament of armed groups operating outside the control of the State. In this context, and with a new Government now in place, I encourage President Sleiman to reconvene the National Dialogue Committee as soon as possible.

72. I am also concerned by the continued presence of the PFLP-GC and Fatah al-Intifada military bases in Lebanon. They pose a challenge to Lebanon's ability to manage its borders and undermine Lebanese sovereignty. I reiterate my call on the Government of Lebanon to dismantle these military bases, as agreed upon by the National Dialogue in 2006 and reiterated since, and on the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to fully cooperate with these efforts.

73. I call upon all Member States to prevent transfers of arms and related materiel to entities or individuals in Lebanon without the consent of the Lebanese State. I encourage the new Government of Lebanon to further the efforts of its predecessor to control its borders, including by adopting the comprehensive border management strategy which was committed to in 2010. I am grateful to Member States that are providing assistance for the improvement of Lebanon's border management capacity and call upon the international community to support the implementation of the comprehensive border strategy once it is adopted.

74. Efforts to delineate and demarcate the common border between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic should proceed, starting with the activation of the joint Lebanese-Syrian border committee. The delineation of the border is critical to a positive relationship between the two countries. I urge the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate with the Government of Lebanon in taking concrete and practical steps towards achieving this goal, in accordance with resolutions 1701 (2006) and 1680 (2006).

75. I also intend to continue my efforts aimed at finding a diplomatic solution to the issue of the Shab'a Farms area, in accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution 1701 (2006). I must recognize, however, that these efforts are hampered by the unwillingness of Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic to resolve the issue at this

time. I call, once again, upon these two countries to submit their responses to the provisional definition of the Shab'a Farms area that I provided in October 2007 (see S/2007/641).

76. The situation faced by Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon continues to be a matter of concern. Two thirds of these refugees live in poverty and are affected by very high unemployment rates, high prevalence of chronic illnesses and nutritive deficiencies and poor living conditions. I call on the new Government of Lebanon to implement the amendments to the Lebanese Labour Code and Social Security Law that were adopted in August 2010, so as to effectively improve the prospects of employment of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. I also continue to be very concerned by the continued funding shortfalls faced by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), both in its regular programmes aimed at delivering basic education and health care to the Palestinian refugees and for the reconstruction of the Nahr al-Bared camp, which was destroyed four years ago. I urge donors, including countries in the region, to continue, and if possible increase, their support for UNRWA. Progress in ensuring the full realization of the human rights of Palestinian refugees is without prejudice to the resolution of the Palestinian refugee question in the context of a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace agreement.

77. I commend the UNIFIL Head of Mission and Force Commander and all the military and civilian personnel of UNIFIL who continue to play a critical role in helping to promote peace and stability in southern Lebanon, as well as the Special Coordinator for Lebanon and the staff of his Office.

78. I remain keenly aware that the implementation by Israel and Lebanon of their obligations under resolution 1701 (2006) is influenced by dynamics affecting the region as a whole. In recent months, the region has been swept by a wave of popular protests and political change. Against this background, developments in the Syrian Arab Republic are likely to have a direct impact on Lebanon and, accordingly, on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). The Arab-Israeli conflict, of which the conflict between Israel and Lebanon is a part, is also not immune from these dramatic developments.

79. I call on both Israel and Lebanon to take the necessary steps to achieve what, in resolution 1701 (2006), is termed a long-term solution governing their relations. The achievement of that solution cannot and should not be dissociated from the need to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on all relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 1515 (2003). I call upon the parties and all Member States to work decisively towards this goal.